

Application No. 10/672,225  
Amendment Dated 11/2/2005  
Reply to Office Action of October 06, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this Amendment, the specification is amended.

**Provisional Election**

In response to restriction requirement set forth in the October 06, 2005 Office Action, Applicants provisionally elect Group I. This provisional election is made without traverse.

In response to the species election requirement set forth in the Office Action, Applicants provisionally elect the following species for prosecution on the merits:

1(b) a disulfide bond as a particular species of a cleavable bond as recited in claims 2 and 3 and the thiol-containing fluorophore having a structure as recited in claim 7;

2(b) a thiol group as a particular species of a functional group as recited in claim 13;

3(b) a thiol-reactive group as a particular species of reactive moiety as recited in claim 16;

4(b) a metal as a particular species of a surface as recited in claim 14; and

5(f) tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine as a particular species of a reducing agent as recited in claim 22.

This provisional election is made without traverse.

Applicants reserve their rights under 35 USC § 121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected claims.

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Amendment to Specification to Include Unintentionally Delayed Priority Claim

Applicants bring to the Examiner's attention that a petition for the acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35. U.S.C. 120 to Applicants earlier filed application Ser. No. 10/170,411. The specification has been amended to include the priority claim in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78 (a)(3).

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,  
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.

November 2, 2005

By Marina E Volin

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Please charge or credit our  
Account No. 03-0075 as necessary  
to effect entry and/or ensure  
consideration of this submission.